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What is claimed is:

- 1. A compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2, wherein said compound is at least 70% complementary to said nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2, and wherein said compound inhibits the expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 mRNA by at least 10%.
- 2. The compound of claim 1 comprising 12 to 50 nucleobases in length.
- 3. The compound of claim 2 comprising 15 to 30 nucleobases in length.
- 4. The compound of claim 1 comprising an oligonucleotide.
- 5. The compound of claim 4 comprising an antisense oligonucleotide.
- 6. The compound of claim 4 comprising a DNA oligonucleotide.
- 7. The compound of claim 4 comprising an RNA oligonucleotide.
- 8. The compound of claim 4 comprising a chimeric oligonucleotide.
- 9. The compound of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of said compound hybridizes with RNA to form an oligonucleotide-RNA duplex.
- 10. The compound of claim 1 having at least 80% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2.
- 11. The compound of claim 1 having at least 90% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2.

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- 12. The compound of claim 1 having at least 95% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2.
- 13. The compound of claim 1 having at least 99% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2.
- 14. The compound of claim 1 having at least one modified internucleoside linkage, sugar moiety, or nucleobase.
- 15. The compound of claim 1 having at least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.
- 16. The compound of claim 1 having at least one phosphorothicate internucleoside linkage.
- 17. The compound of claim 1 having at least one 5-methylcytosine.
- 18. A method of inhibiting the expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 in a cell or tissue comprising contacting said cell or tissue with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 is inhibited.
- 19. A method of screening for a modulator of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2, the method comprising the steps of:

contacting a preferred target segment of a nucleic acid molecule encoding diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 with one or more candidate modulators of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2, and

identifying one or more modulators of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 expression which modulate the expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the modulator of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 expression comprises an oligonucleotide, an antisense oligonucleotide, a DNA

oligonucleotide, an RNA oligonucleotide, an RNA oligonucleotide having at least a portion of said RNA oligonucleotide capable of hybridizing with RNA to form an oligonucleotide-RNA duplex, or a chimeric oligonucleotide.

- 21. A diagnostic method for identifying a diseased state associated with diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 expression comprising identifying the presence of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 in a sample using at least one of the primers comprising SEQ ID NOs 6 or 7, or the probe comprising SEQ ID NO: 8.
- 22. A kit or assay device comprising the compound of claim 1.
- 23. A method of ameliorating or lessening the severity of a condition in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 is inhibited and measurement of one or more physical indicia of said condition indicates a lessening of the severity of said condition.
- 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is a cardiovascular disorder.
- 25. The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is obesity.
- 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the obesity is diet-induced.
- 27. The method of claim 25 wherein physical indicia of obesity is increased fat.
- 28. The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is diabetes.
- 29. The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is cholesterolemia.
- 30. The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is liver steatosis.

- 31. The method of claim 23 wherein the animal is obese.
- 32. The method of claim 23 wherein the animal is a mammal.
- 33. A method of lowering serum free fatty acids in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 34. A method of lowering serum triglycerides in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 35. A method of lowering HDL cholesterol in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 36. A method of lowering total serum cholesterol in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 37. A method of lowering plasma insulin in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 38. A method of lowering hepatic triglycerides in an animal comprising contacting said animal with an effective amount of the compound of claim 4.
- 39. The method of claim 37 wherein said plasma insulin levels are lowered at two weeks after said contacting.
- 40. The method of claim 37 wherein said plasma insulin levels are lowered at four weeks after said contacting.
- 41. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64,

- 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 101, 109, 114, 115, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 127, 128, 130, 133, 136 and 142.
- 42. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR) of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 43. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a start region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 44. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a coding region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 45. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a stop region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 46. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a 3'-untranslated region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 47. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is

specifically hybridizable with a exon:intron region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

- 48. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense nucleic acid molecule that is specifically hybridizable with a intron:exon region of the diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 49. A method of inhibiting the expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 in a cell or tissue of an animal comprising contacting said cell or tissue with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 is inhibited.
- 50. The method of claim 49 wherein said tissue is white adipose tissue.
- 51. The method of claim 49 wherein the tissue is brown adipose tissue.
- 52. A method of modulating fatty acid synthesis in an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 4.
- 53. A method of modulating lipogenesis in an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 4.
- 54. A method of modulating gluconeogenesis in an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 4.
- 55. A method of reducing the liver weight of an animal comprising contacting said animal with the compound of claim 4.
 - 56. The method of claim 55 wherein the animal is obese.

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57. The method of claim 55 wherein the animal is diabetic.